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FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

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Charge Teamsters Violate Law In Calif. Canneries

San Francisco, Calif.—California CIO leaders called on President Truman March 4 to take immediate steps to insure full production and employment in the Northern California food canning industry, now threatened with what the CIO said was a "jurisdictional strike called by officials of the Teamsters Union" and by "political pressure being exerted upon the NLRB to modify a decision consistent with the Wagner Act."

The CIO leaders reaffirmed their full support to all labor organizations, and said the CIO will "support any bona fide economic action taken by any labor union, including the Teamsters, which has as its objective the protection of workers' rights or the better-

jurisdictional strike is not of this character."

According to the NLRB order of Feb. 15, no union is entitled to exclusive bargaining rights in the canneries until a new election is held to determine the workers' choice of bargaining agent.

The CIO leaders called upon President Truman to:

1. Enforce the recent NLRB decisions.

2. Order an investigation of the National Labor Relations Board for failure to certify the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers following the recent cannery election.

3. Call upon the officials of the Teamsters union to end their jurisdictional strike.

4. Establish a presidential committee to recommend adequate wage increases in the cannery industry.

upon the California CIO members and upon "'all labor, the public, the growers and the canners to support this program."

The text of the resolution telegraphed to President Truman regarding the cannery situation was released jointly by Harry Bridges, California CIO director and president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; Donald Henderson, president of the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union, and Secretary-Treasurer Mervyn Rathborne of the California CIO Council following a CIO conference here March 3.

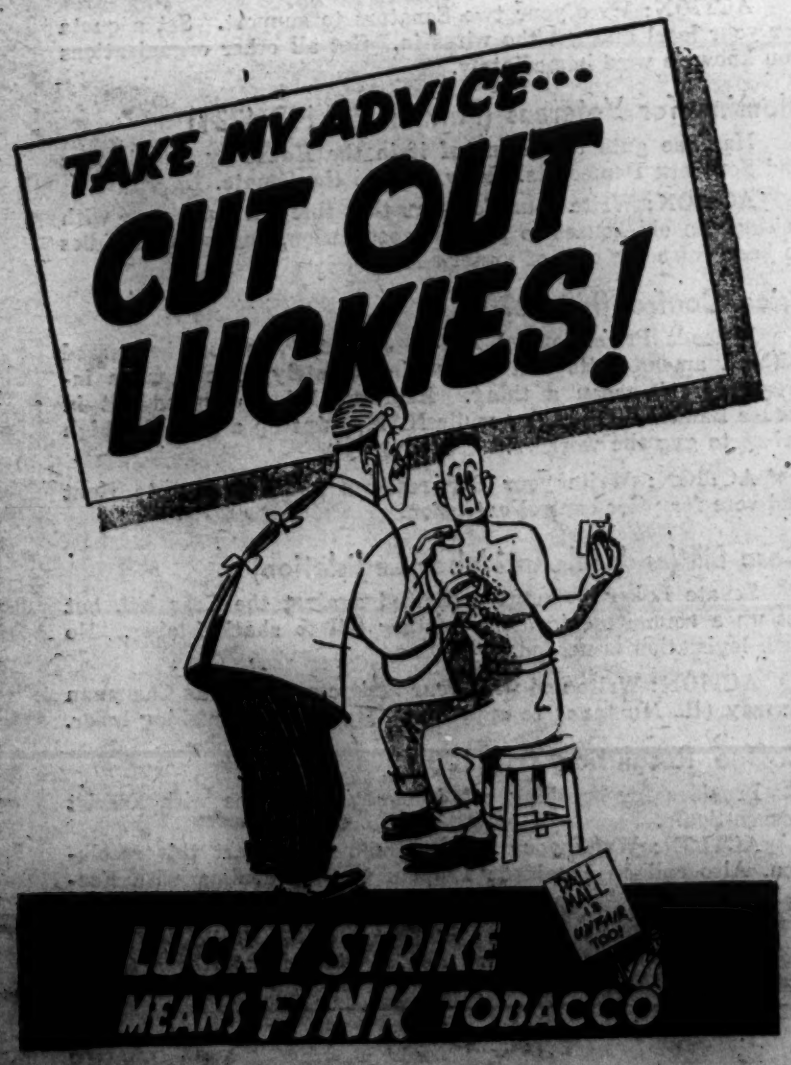
Steelworkers Back Cannery Drive

San Francisco, Calif.—A joint meeting of leaders of the CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers and of the CIO United [illegible] employed in six Northern California can plants of the American Can Co. will be held in Oakland March 13 to coordinate plans for full support of the FTA drive for bargaining rights in the Northern California cannery industry.

The 3,000 CIO workers in the six plants at Sacramento, San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland, Monterey and Los Angeles, together with other CIO workers in other plants, manufacture virtually all the tin cans used by Northern California canneries.

Daddy Was Murdered! **Because they organized for higher wages and better working conditions, one man was murdered and five were arrested for "violence" which they did not commit. Above, Mrs. Ella Mae Campbell, widow of Walter Campbell, FTA member who was stabbed to death near a picket line Dec. 26 in Little Rock, Arkansas, and their five-year-old daughter Barbara Anita who still asks when her daddy is coming home.**

The confessed murderer of Campbell walks scot free in Little Rock, while five FTA members, on strike at the Southern Cotton Oil Mill, were indicted under the phony Arkansas "Anti-Violence" Law. Support FTA's legal fight to free these men by contributing to the Southern Cotton Oil Company Strikers Defense Committee. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Georgia Morris, 119 Glover Bldg., Little Rock, Ark.



Fight For Price Control To Preserve Wage Gains

By Philip Murray, President, CIO

THE CIO campaign for the restoration of the take-home pay of American workers is now approaching a successful conclusion. Wage settlements providing for substantial wage increases on behalf of millions of members of CIO unions are now being made throughout industry.

Terrific battles still face us in several big industries. The same solidarity we have shown to date will make final victory an absolute certainty.

In the course of this struggle to protect and improve the wage standards of the working people, we have had to meet attacks from strange sources. Before the National Labor-Management Conference held in Washington last November, the CIO ceaselessly endeavored to secure the adoption of a resolution by the Conference recognizing the imperative need for substantial wage increases and effective price control to avoid inflation.

Representatives of labor groups outside of the CIO in concert with inflation-bent employers defeated the CIO's proposal. Instead, this combination proposed a resolution which was intended to gut the entire price control law and thereby invite inflation. The hypocritical pretenses on the part of these same groups today decrying the struggle of the CIO for wage increases as possibly threatening price control will deceive no one—least of all American workers who will reap the fruits of the successful and victorious drive of the CIO for substantial wage increases.

But even after the wage settlements themselves are all concluded three unfinished tasks remain which are absolutely vital in preserving and extending the effect of these wage settlements:

● **First, members of the CIO must join with millions of other Americans in repelling attacks upon price control.** If price ceilings are destroyed and inflation results it is the worker who will suffer first. With the same persistence and energy that has marked our historic fight for wage increases we must now resist the attacks of the profiteers upon price control.

● **Second, the victories of organized labor are being threatened by sinister legislative proposals pending in Congress which are designed to deprive workers of their rights to organize and bargain collectively and to undermine the very existence of labor unions.** Organized labor and all other progressive Americans must make it clear to Congress that such measures as the Case, Ellender or Ball-Burton-Hatch bills must be decisively defeated.

● Third, the millions of unorganized workers all over America will inevitably share in the fruits of our campaign for substantial wage increases. They will inevitably be made aware that it is through our struggle and our collective endeavors that their lot has been improved.

Now is the time to enlarge the membership of our organization among the unorganized by bringing home to them the message that the wage gains that have been earned can be consolidated and enlarged through the strength and growth of the labor organization responsible for those wage gains, the CIO.

PROTECTION FOR WHOM?

FROM WASHINGTON

Return of the Famine King

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Washington Representative

THE old man with the stiff collar and the cold fish eyes is back on the Washington scene again. Herbert Hoover has gone back to the White House as an honored guest and adviser, at the invitation of President Truman.

It is hard to grasp in all its seriousness that Hoover was called to Washington and to the White House to advise Truman on the food crisis. Hoover, the arch-reactionary, is actually the head of the new food advisory body.

The rest of the world is to get the benefit of his advice too. Hoover will tour Europe under U. S. government auspices. The rest of the world will get even more than advice. Hoover is going to decide how much food needs to be sent to what places.

Hoover and Hunger

One of the Republican newspapermen gushed all over himself about the new appointment. Hoover, he wrote in an awestruck tone, knows more about food than any living man. Well—we might argue about that one. But it is true that Hoover should know something about food. It was Herbert Hoover who kept a firm hand on the wheel while this, the richest nation in the world plunged down the back slope into the worst depression in our history.

Doesn't anyone remember that far back—back to 1930 and '31 and '32? One man in every three was out of work then and walking the streets looking for nothing while the wife and kids stayed home—and thought about something to eat. Maybe that does make Hoover a sort of expert on food.

Figuring it the same way, Hoover also ought to be called in to advise Wilson Wyatt on housing. Remember those packing crate shacks called "Hoovervilles?" That was one way to solve the housing problem. Hoover knew something about slum clearance, too. In the hot summer of 1932, thousands of unemployed veterans of the first World War came to Washington and built a shack town on the Anacostia mud flats. That was a slum if you ever saw one. Hoover cleared that slum in a hurry. He called out the troops and ran the veterans out of town at bayonet point.

It is a strange twist of history that Hoover is being sent back to Europe to run food relief at the end of the second World War. He made his reputation as a Great Humanitarian by his handling of food relief after World War I. The way Hoover handled relief the first time was something very special. It was something so special that it raises the most serious questions about what is going to happen in Europe now.

In 1919 as in 1946, the world has been torn up by a great war. Literally hundreds of millions of people were threatened by starvation. Then, as now, the U. S. was the one big nation of the world which could afford to send food abroad. Hoover was in charge of distributing the life-saving American food.

Food and Politics

Herbert Hoover used food relief as nothing less than a political weapon. The worn-out monarchies of the old world were being replaced by governments of the peoples' own choosing. Hoover threw the full weight of the food he controlled on the side of propping up reactionary governments. In the shadow of mass famine he struck a series of cold-blooded bargains. In effect he said: install a reactionary government and you eat; otherwise — starve. He played this game in Belgium, in France, and he tried it, unsuccessfully, in the Ukraine.

Food, during and after this War, has been distributed according to need by UNRRA. Bringing Hoover into the picture again can only mean more interference in the political affairs of other people.

We can think of a few simple things which can be done about the food situation without the services of Herbert Hoover.

- Enforce the Wagner Act in California. Insure cannery production in that key state by letting the cannery workers be represented by the union of their own choosing.

- Stop the hypocritical talk about "voluntary rationing." It is an open door to black markets and the scuttling of price control. If there isn't enough food to go around, distribute it the fair and democratic way, by rationing.

- Overseas, UNRRA is doing a good job. It breaks down where it doesn't have enough help or enough food to distribute. The answer to that problem is not to put Mr. Hoover over UNRRA, but to give UNRRA enough food to distribute.

- If the food crisis is going to be with us for some time to come, let's start planning ahead. This is something that can be settled with the farmers, not with worn-out Republican politicians. Let's set goals for the foods we need most and start planning now on how to reach the quotas.

- Decent wages and social security for workers in the food industries and on farms will assure the needed manpower to keep our food production at top level.

HERE ARE YOUR FACTS

Tobacco Profits ✓

By JOSEPH CALIFF, Research Director

Poverty Plea Backfires

THE tobacco industry probably will think twice before it again invites the public to take a look into how much profits tobacco companies have piled up during the war.

The Associated Tobacco Manufacturers, a prominent trade association, recently undertook to put ex-OPA Administrator Chester Bowles on the spot for his support of the 65c-75c Minimum Wage Bill. In a statement to the Senate Labor Committee last fall, Bowles said the tobacco industry made $154,000,000 in profits in 1944. He pointed out that it would cost the industry only $14,000,000 to pay a 65c minimum wage, or just 9% of its 1944 profits.

Leading with its chin, the Associated Tobacco Manufacturers attacked Bowles' figures. With considerable fanfare it fired a 10-point questionnaire at the OPA Administrator, the intent of which was to get him to admit the OPA's statistics included only the biggest and most profitable corporations and didn't reflect the dire poverty of the smaller tobacco firms.

Profits Soar

The attack backfired loudly when Bowles came back with a detailed answer to the industry's 10 questions showing that his figures, which covered 19 tobacco manufacturers, actually understated greatly the profits of small tobacco companies.

Profits before taxes of six of these companies — including the five giant corporations which account for 80% of all tobacco products—were 35% higher in 1944 than average annual profits in the four pre-war years 1936-39; but profits of the remaining 13 smaller firms were 64% higher. Eight of these 13 smaller firms were cigar companies whose profits increased 172%.

Bowles then produced figures for 17 more of the smaller tobacco manufacturers, mostly cigar companies, whose profits show an increase of 179% between 1936-39 and 1944. The figures also show that the return on net worth (that is, profits as a percentage of the value of the business) increased much more for the smaller firms than for the larger firms during the war.

The OPA Administrator also pointed out that raising wages will in itself lead to bigger profits because of the greater efficiency of workers who earn a decent wage.

After politely but firmly putting the questionnaire-writer in his place, Bowles added a neat finishing touch:

"I hope that after you have considered the matter once again, you will see your way clear to joining those of us who want to see the floor under wages raised to a level at which men and their families may live decently."

No Word About Reply

As you might expect, the U. S. Tobacco Journal, a leading trade magazine which played up the industry attack with page one headlines, hasn't gotten around to mentioning OPA's reply.

You don't need to lose any sleep over the fact that the profits of the big companies haven't increased as much in terms of percent as have profits of smaller firms. In dollars and cents the few big companies have cleaned up many times as much as all the others put together. The reason their percentage increase in profits is smaller is that they were making big money even before the war whereas many small firms were not.

Future columns will give figures which show the same picture for the food industries as for tobacco —namely, huge profits for the entire industry with smaller firms showing showing proportionally greater wartime gains.

Tell It To Congress

IT is no accident that the CIO Unions have been able to win the millions of dollars they got in wage gains over the past few months. The CIO wage increases were won only because thousands of workers stuck together and brought their need for higher wages before the people. It's up to you to use the weapon of political action to sustain these gains and those yet to come. Don't let "scab" Congressmen bust your political picketline.

65-75c Minimum Wage Bill (S 1349) With Coverage And Overtime for Food Processing Workers

Finally reported to Senate where it is scheduled to come up for debate March 14. Provisions affecting food processing workers in great danger of defeat.

ACTION: Wire your two Senators to support. Set a quota for your local and get the wires in. Get all other organizations you know to wire immediately.

Housing for Veterans (Patman Bill HR 4731)

Had the guts taken out of it in the House by Republicans and Southern Democrats. Now goes to the Senate.

ACTION: Write your Senators that this bill must pass with ceilings on old houses to prevent speculation, and with subsidies to keep down the cost of materials.

Price Control (HR 5270)

Extends Price Control Act to June 1947. Must be passed without amendments and passed immediately or our wage increases won't mean a thing. Hearings being dragged out in House Banking Committee while NAM whips up a drive for high prices to gyp the workers.

ACTION: Write your Congressmen and Senators to fight and vote for price control extension.

Case Bill (and All Anti-labor Legislation)

Senate Labor Committee decided against the Case bill, but set up a committee to draft another bill to shackle labor. No such legislation is needed.

ACTION: Write and wire your Senators as well as Chairman Murray (D., Montana) to oppose any legislation punishing labor.

Coffee Resolution (HR 100)

Provides for breaking off diplomatic relations with Fascist Franco-Spain.

ACTION: Write your Congressman to support this resolution. Also call on President Truman to stop dealing with Fascist Spain.

Write and wire Senators at Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. Write and wire Representatives at House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

CIO Raps New Wage Order

CIO wants extension and vigorous enforcement of the price control act and is bitterly opposed to the new federal wage control policy which invites "destructive delays and inevitable confusion and strikes."

This was the policy outlined in a letter from CIO Pres. Philip Murray to Chester Bowles, director of economic stabilization. The letter follows in full:

A movement of historic proportions for the restoration of the take-home pay of American workers is now being concluded. Wage settlements on behalf of millions of members of CIO unions are now being made throughout industry. It is imperative for industrial peace, rapid reconversion, full employment, and the fight against inflation, that these settlements be made effective with all possible speed and in as broad as possible an area.

It would be severely injurious to the common welfare if, after the principles governing those wage settlements had been established, their application were deferred for an indefinite period of time or if they were applied in such a way as to deprive the workers who struggle to achieve those settlements of the full fruits of them.

Moreover, any policy which requires approval by governmental agencies of a wage increase granted as the result of collective bargaining seriously undermines the freedom of American workers and destroys the value of collective bargaining.

Having eliminated government intervention from the disputes phase of labor relations, it would be catastrophic to reintroduce it on the level of wage settlements. To do so would mean not only to abandon a fundamental premise of federal labor policy of encouraging collective bargaining to the widest extent possible but also to invite destructive delays and inevitable confusion and strikes.

This will be the inevitable result from the application of Executive Order 9697 purporting to establish a new national wage-price policy.

The CIO is unwilling to commit itself to an Executive Order based upon the view that wage increases obtained through collective bargaining are inflationary. The CIO is unwilling to commit itself to a recurrence of wartime delays in the processing of wage increases and in the policing of meaningless distinctions. Neither the labor movement nor the public as a whole can countenance a repetition of our wartime experience along these lines.

We urge you, therefore, promptly to remove all handicaps to the functioning of collective bargaining by removing the necessity for subjecting wage settlements between employers and labor organizations to approval of the Wage Stabilization Board.

In its struggle for a decent living wage for its members, the CIO has not at any time abandoned its firm support of effective and vigorous price control. It reaffirms its support at this time. Its record in the fight against inflation is untarnished by retreat or compromise.

In its campaign for wage increases, CIO has not at any time abandoned its conviction that price control is indispensable to the welfare of all the people.

This wage movement has been based upon the argument of the President of the U. S. that "wage increases are therefore imperative—to cushion the shock to our workers, to sustain adequate purchasing power and to raise the national income." At the same time, the CIO has insisted, as has the President of the U. S., that the high profits and reduced costs of American industry can amply absorb such increases without increasing the cost of living.

During the Natl. Labor-Management Conference in the month of November of last year, the CIO labored ceaselessly for the adoption of a resolution addressed to the wage issue which would permit substantial wage increases. A combination of other groups sponsored a resolution which proposed nothing less than the gutting of the entire price control program under the guise of supporting so-called unfettered "free enterprise." Any present attempt on the part of these interests to pose as guardians against inflation will deceive no one.

The CIO affirms its support of price control and pledges to you its wholehearted cooperation in the fight for the renewal of the Price Control Act.

$2,000 In Back Pay Won At Marshall Canning Co.

By Jack Sparks, International Organizer

Oskaloosa, Iowa — Back pay checks totalling some $2,000 were awarded to the workers at the Marshall Canning plant here last month, following settlement of a WLB dispute case between Local 155 and the Company. (Shown at left is Shop Steward George Belveal who received a check of $2.39.)

George Belveal

On october 29, the Regional War Labor Board ordered the Company to grant an increase of 5c an hour for women, 4c for men and 3c for maintenance workers. The Board also recommended a 1c per box piece rate increase for pickers. All increases were to be retroactive to April 1, 1945, the date when the 1945 contract was opened.

By this time, the plant had closed down for the off season, and when the Local asked the Company Attorney to incorporate the Board order in the contract, he stalled until January 23. The Union called U. S. Conciliation Commissioner Sherman in on the case. On February 7, the Company, at a meeting before the Commissioner, agreed to pay the retroactive increase.

PAC CONTRIBUTION AT WORK

Vote 43 to 1 for FTA at Marshall

By Harry Koger, Reg. Dir.

Sugar Land, Texas—Workers at the Marshall Canning plant here voted overwhelmingly for FTA in an NLRB election on February 19. Despite a heavy rain which prevented the plant from operating, the vote was 43 to 1 in favor of the Union.

Many of the 125 employees are still making 40c an hour.

Union Goes Into Action In Baltimore Canneries

By Harold Kotzger, International Organizer

Baltimore, Md.—FTA is going places in the city of Baltimore. Negotiations for a new contract are under way at the Lord Mott cannery where FTA won an NLRB election a few months ago. Members of the Negotiating Committee at Lord Mott's are: Judson McDaniels, Laura Harris, Antonio Lopez, Marion Pack, Nathan Brown, Hester Dixon, Michael Rapko and Jessie Cabiness.

In the Gibbs-Booth plants, the Negotiating Committee has been meeting and includes Chapelle Hudson, Grace Franklin, Ethel Haines, Isaiah Small, Ruth Valentine, Joseph Kehs and Theodore Kess.

FTA members here have rented a new Union headquarters on the waterfront just a few blocks from the plants. Willing hands got to work immediately to make their headquarters a pleasant place to meet. Marion Pack, Leon Richfield, Granville Molock, John Landon, Tony Lopez, Jud McDaniels, Nathan Brown and Frazier Caldwell converted two of the rooms into one large one, constructed benches, painted the walls and floors, etc.

Gertrude Reddick, James Davis and Ella Horton as well as the other members of the Organizing Committee at Lord Mott's are steadily signing up new members in the Union. Similar success is reported by the Gibbs-Booth Organizing Committee headed by Fred Tibbs, Mary Haines, Elmore Clayborn, Elvina Powell, Lucille Massey, Leroy Oliver, Henry Harrison and Hattie Turlington.

Support for the American Tobacco strikers has been one of the key campaigns among the members here. The response of Ida Jones, a rank and file member, is a typical example. Ida had no money with her the first day an appeal for funds to back the strike was made.

The following day she came to the Union office with a dollar bill in her hand. "This is for the American Tobacco strikers," said Ida. "I wish I could give more. I know when we need help they will give for us. That's the only way workers can get anywhere."

Charter Local 270 In Lebanon, Ore.

Lebanon, Ore. — Another local was welcomed into FTA with the awarding of a charter to Local 270 here recently.

Following an election at the Spencer Packing Co. several months ago, the CIO chartered the Local as a Local Industrial Union. However, the membership voted to affiliate with FTA. The Local has bargaining rights for some 350 workers employed during the peak.

A contract signed with the Company in January provides a minimum wage of 80c an hour for men and 66c for women.

Local 270 officers are: B. O. Thorne, Pres.; Mila Nelson, Rec. Secy.; and Beatrice Clark, Fin. Secy.

Local 80 Delegation Examines Congressmen

Camden, N.J.—Four Local 80 members—Pres. Herbert Kling, PAC Chairman Robert Wooley, George Blinebury and Clifford Cooper — participated in a delegation from the South Jersey Industrial Union Council to lobby in Washington, recently.

Representing some 64,000 workers in the Camden area, the delegation went to get committments from their Congressmen and Senators on the FEPC bill, the 65c-75c minimum wage bill with coverage to food processing workers, repeal of the carryback clause in corporation tax laws, and defeat of the Case bill and other anti-labor legislation.

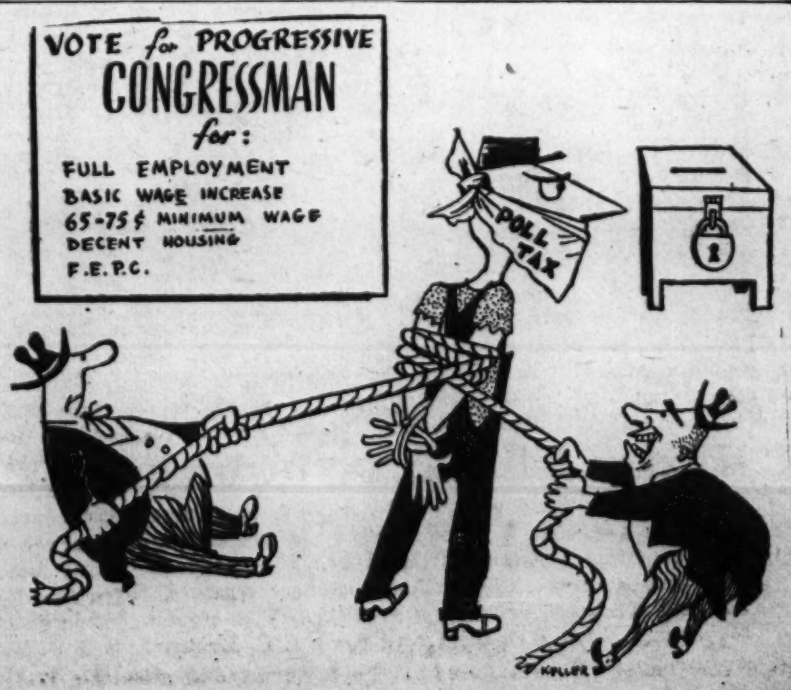
John Fabian, President of the South Jersey IUC and head of the delegation, reported that the delegates were heartily ashamed of the actions of their Congressmen on the House and Senate floors. He said that if they had been union leaders and dared to act in such a high-handed and undemocratic manner as they did in Congress, their unions would immediately remove them from office.

Congressmen Hand and Wolverton supported the FEPC bill. They also agreed to the necessity of the 65c-75c minimum wage bill. Representative Matthews, while he signed the discharge petition to bring the FEPC bill out of committee, refused to comment on his position. He refused to comment much on the minimu wage bill other than to state that he did not think that minimum wages enforced by law were a good practice.

Matthews further showed his reactionary position by voting for the Case bill, as did Hand. Wolverton voted against it. Matthews indicated that workers needed anti-strike legislation to protect them against themselves.

None of the New Jersey Congressmen or Senators would comment on their position on the repeal of the carryback provisions in the tax laws. The delegation clearly pointed out to them that corporations were using tax refunds for strikebreaking purposes against the interests of the people.

Senator Smith refused to discuss the 65c-75c minimum wage bill at length, saying "I do not wish to be influenced in any way and would rather use my good judgment." The delegates reminded him that he was in office to be influenced by the people whom he represented.



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Start Negotiations On American Tobacco Strike

Philadelphia, Pa.—Negotiations on FTA's demands in the American Tobacco strike began March 7 with a meeting of Union and Company representatives at the State Mediation Board in Newark, N. J. The Company's counter-proposals were taken under consideration by the Union, and dates were set for further negotiations for the Trenton, Philadelphia and Charleston plants.

Present at the meeting in Newark were Regional Directors Lewis Bentzley and Armando Ramirez, Regional Representative Jessica Rhine and members of the Local 56 (Trenton) Strike Committee.

The Union's demands in the five-month old strike include a 65c minimum wage; 25c per hour increase; a no-discrimination clause; and a union shop.

Prior to the start of negotiations, a new Company-inspired attack was launched upon the American Tobacco strikers in Philadelphia. It took the form of a petition to the State Labor Relations Board by a small group of would-be scabs, asking for a new election in the plant.

Scab Petition Illegal

At the Board hearing on the strike-breakers' petition on March 5, more than 150 strikers appeared to back up the Union's claim that the petition was illegal. Union attorney A. Harry Levitan argued that the State Board has no jurisdiction in this case, since the Union was certified as collective bargaining agent by the National Labor Relations Board.

When the State Board Regional Director Max Baylinson declared that he would want to hear the scab's case before passing on the jurisdiction dispute, the entire group of strikers left the hearing room. Later, questioning by Baylinson revealed that the scabs could not vouch for many of the signatures on their petition and could not prove that they represented a substantial number of employees.

Morale High

The State Board took the scabs' petition under advisement, while the Union announced it would seek a court order restraining the Board from taking further action.

Morale of the strikers in all three plants continues on a high level, and the boycott of American Tobacco products is being intensified. *(For more news on strike see Page 5.)*

Election To Be Held At Fendrich Co.

Evansville, Ind. — The National Labor Relations Board has set Tuesday, March 19, as the day when 750 Fendrich Cigar workers will vote for the Union of their choice. The election was set as the result of a petition filed by FTA with the NLRB last October.

At a meeting March 3 between the Union and the Fendrich Company, details of the election were arranged. Voting will take place between the hours of 8 and 11 a.m. and 3 and 4 p.m.

Although the Company has used every trick in the books to stall the election, the Union Organizing Committee at the plant reports that the CIO spirit is good and that the workers have high hopes for a large CIO vote. International Organizers Thurlow Jones and Elsie Smith are conducting the Union's organizing drive at Fendrich's.

Average weekly wage for most Fendrich workers comes to $28 for a 44-hour week, according to Union representatives who report that working conditions in the plant are deplorable.

AYD In The Groove On 'Luckies' Boycott

Brooklyn, N. Y. — American Youth for Democracy members here in Brooklyn voted to join the drive against the "fink" products of the American Tobacco Company in support of the FTA strike.

Already AYD Club Concord got hundreds of postcards to the Company signed at the booths they set up outside subway entrances. They distributed over 1500 boycott leaflets, stickers and posters.

In Philadelphia, the AYD has likewise been very active in support of the American Tobacco strikers. They have contributed hundreds of baskets of food to feed strikers' families.

Don't let your Congressman pass the buck . . . give YOURS to PAC!

Notes from LOCALS

New Officers

19 **Memphis, Tenn.** — Local 19's newly-elected officers for 1946 are: John Mack Dyson, Pres.; Emerson Dotson, Vice-Pres.; Henderson Davis, Rec. Secy.; and A. B. Bartlett, Fin. Secy.

20 **Harbor Beach, Mich.**—Local 20's officers for the new year are: Harold Richards, Pres.; Ed Usher, Vice-Pres.; Robert Jeffers, Fin. and Rec. Secy.; and Theodore Fuhrman, Treas.

69 **Lima, Ohio** — At a recent membership meeting, Local 69 elected the following new officers: Edward Mortimer, Pres.; Minnie Duckro, Vice-Pres.; Helen Pohlabel, Rec. Secy.; Nell Fox, Fin. Secy.; and Fred Lawrence, Treas.

Protest Lynch Terror

80 **Camden, N. J.**—Protesting the attack of police and state militia on the Negro community of Columbia, Tenn., Local 80 called on President Truman to intervene to prevent further loss of life and violations of civil liberties.

"This disgraceful occurrence," the letter to Truman said, "took place following the provocation of a white shop keeper on a defenseless Negro woman. The police, deputy sheriffs and state militia, armed with machine guns and rifles, descended on the Negro community and blasted a number of homes and business places, killing two and wounding many others."

SENATOR BULLHEAD

National Labor Service

Senator Bullhead: "Wait for me, Jarvis. I'm digging up material for my filibuster."

18½c Per Hour Increase Won At Continental Can

By Dixie Tiller, International Vice-President

Fullerton, Calif. — A basic wage increase of 18½c per hour for all job classifications was agreed upon on March 4 by the Orange County Division of Local 25 and the Continental Can Company, effective Feb. 25.

Additional gains include pay for six holidays not worked, and reclassification of several jobs with additional increases ranging from 2½c to 5c an hour. Minimum hourly wage at the plant is now 91½c. The maximum is $1.71½.

Time and a half for over 8 hours a day and forty hours a week, as well as check-off of Union dues have been in effect for some time.

Continental Can produces cans for the Hunt Foods cannery with which the Union has been negotiating unsuccessfully for more than 3 months. A phoney AFL truck drivers picket line around the Hunt Foods plant locked FTA members out for several days. In an attempt to break the Company's stubborn position on a 45c an hour minimum for piece workers, FTA scheduled a meeting for March 4 with U. S. Commissioner of Conciliation Earl Ruddy.

Wages Raised By 15% At Michigan Frosted Foods

By Beatrice Reid, Reporter

Bay City, Mich.—A 15% wage increase was won for the workers at the Michigan Frosted Foods Co. (former Beutel Canning) by Local 79 with the signing of a new contract. The new contract was ratified by the membership at a special meeting on February 23.

In addition to the general increase, the minimum hiring rate was raised from 50c to 55c an hour. Improvements in the vacation plan won vacations with pay of 40, 60 and 80 hours for workers employed from 1 to 4 years.

The contract was signed following negotiations between the Company and the Negotiating Committee whose members are Pres. George Zala, Helen Weber and Ida Scott. The Committee was assisted by International Organizer Chapin K. Armstrong.

Local 79 is happy to report the return of Harold Middleton, Herman Casper and John Middleton from the armed forces. Harold tells us that he received FTA NEWS regularly while he was in the Army and he's certainly glad to be back on his old job. He received his discharge recently after 3 years in the Army.

Casper spent 31 months of his 3 years in Army overseas in Africa, Sicily and Italy. Former Seaman 1st Class John Middleton is also back on his old job after 21 months overseas.

Victorious Ralston-Purina Workers: Some of the workers at the Ralston-Purina plant in Charlotte, N. C., where FTA recently won an NLRB election by a vote of 31 for FTA to 18 against (above). Organization at the plant was conducted by Int. Rep. William DeBerry, a committee of Buckeye Cotton Oil mill workers, and Charles McClee of the Ralston-Purina plant. Shown (l. to r.) are some of the active FTA members: (front row) James Brown, Cicero Young, Robert Watters, Nitro Lee Rollings, Charles McClee, Willie Houston and Kenneth Dargins; (second row) Roosevelt Sanders, Elbert Gates, Castell Walker, Ralph Moore and Mark Weldon; (third row) J. C. Evans, Luther Gillespie, Haywood Vaughn, Richard Johnson, Oscar Seigers and M. W. McClain.

Negotiate For Raises In Alaska Fish Canneries

Seattle, Wash.—Negotiations between Local 7 and the Alaska Salmon Industry for the 1946 season opened recently with the Industry offering an 8% increase in wages over the 1945 scale, according to Cornelio N. Briones, Local 7 Bus. Agt. and head of the Negotiating Committee.

The offer was made in consideration of the Supplementary Agreement which provides for wage increases in proportion to increases in the cost of living in Seattle. As yet, the Negotiating Committee has made no commitment on this offer.

Meanwhile, a Joint Strategy Committee has been set up representing Local 7 and other unions with the Alaska Salmon Industry for the purpose of presenting a united front on wage demands.

Negotiations this year are marked by the threat of a possible labor shortage during the 1946 season in the Alaskan fish canneries, and the Union and Industry agreed at a recent conference to cooperate in recruiting cannery workers for the season. However, the Union maintains that there would be no problem of manpower shortage for the season if the Industry will yield to the demands for higher wages and better working conditions.

Contributions Pour In To Aid Tobacco Strike

Washington, D. C.—Over $2,000 was raised within several weeks by the Emergency Committee to Aid the Families of American Tobacco Company Strikers. Many of the scores of contributions were modest ones, but from the smallest to the largest, they were made with a deep awareness of the fight that the strikers on the FTA picket lines at American Tobacco plants are putting up for a decent living.

One contribution, from Arlington, Va., a check for $11, came with an attached note which read: "The enclosed represents small contributions from 11 persons who do not want to see the American Tobacco Co. profit at the expense of substandard wages."

Another contribution of $10 was sent by the AFL Labor Congress in Clinton, Iowa. "This is a cause which should enlist the support of all believers in fair play," the letter accompanying it said.

Other Contributors

Some of the other labor organizations which gave their financial support to aid the strikers' families are: United Mine Workers District 50, Local 13049 in Chattanooga, Tenn.—$10; the CIO United Furniture Workers local in Sumter, South Carolina—$25; Branch 31 of the CIO Hosiery Workers in Durham, N. C.—$25; Wenonah Red Ore Local 157 in Birmingham, Alabama—$50; CIO Packinghouse Workers Local 108 in Atlanta, Ga.—$25; CIO Oil Workers Local 23, Port Arthur, Texas — $100; CIO United Electrical Workers Local 430, New York City—$25; CIO United Rubber Workers Local 186, Memphis, Tenn.—$100.

The German-American Club of Milwaukee, Wis., contributed $5; and Miss Anne Blaine of Gastonia, N.C., made a handsome contribution of $500.

New Citizens Group

With the formation of the National Citizens Emergency to Aid Strikers Families, an organization set up by leading citizens to aid the families of all striking unions, much wider financial support is expected for striking American Tobacco workers. As a result, the temporary Emergency Committee for American Tobacco strike aid has been dissolved.

The National Citizens Committee is headed by Dr. Frank Kingdon, noted Citizens PAC leader and radio commentator. At present local branches are being organized in many cities throughout the country.

Strikers Put Issues Before Merchants

Charleston, S. C.—Calling attention to the steady drop in wages and business in this city since V-J Day, Local 15 sent letters to Charleston's businessmen and merchants urging them to support the fight for decent wages. Higher wages for Charleston's workers means prosperity for Charleston's businessmen, the message indicated.

"Right now in the U. S. Senate, Charleston's future is being decided. They are considering the minimum wage bill (S 1349) which would put a floor of 65c an hour on most wages. And a floor on wages is the only thing in the world that will keep the bottom from dropping out of Charleston's business. There's no way around it."

The letter, signed by Local 15 Pres. Reuel Stanfield, called on the merchants to write South Carolina Senators Maybank and Johnston to vote for the passage of the 65-75c minimum wage bill.

Showing how the 21-week long strike of American Tobacco workers figured in the fight for decent wages, Stanfield revealed that a 25c an hour increase meant almost a million dollars in additional business for Charleston.

Memphis CIO Backs "Luckies" Boycott

Memphis, Tenn.—Taking steps to spread the boycott of American Tobacco products throughout Memphis, the Memphis CIO Council at a recent meeting pledged support to the strike and boycott, according to FTA Regional Director Frank Hargrove. Each of the locals represented at the Council reported on the steps they had taken in this direction.

One of the largest locals in the Council, the United Rubber Workers, reported that it had contributed $100 to the American Tobacco strike fund. Local members had Lucky Strikes removed from the counter of the restaurant where most of them eat.

In addition, the URW Local's newspapaper and the Tennessee CIO News have been carrying on a continuous campaign backing the strike, and urging members to spread the boycott.

Strike Solidarity: Jack Benny's popularity went way down last month when Los Angeles CIO members picketed his radio show in Hollywood. More than 350 pickets turned out to tell the nation that they "can't stand Jack Benny" because Lucky Strike is his sponsor and Lucky Strike Means FINK Tobacco. Many people, waiting on line to enter the broadcasting studio, turned back when they heard the story of the American Tobacco strike.

From Picket Line to Politics: In protest against police attacks on their fellow-strikers at General Electric, American Tobacco strikers in Philadelphia decided to "clean the Republicans out of City Hall." After spending a rugged morning on the GE picket line dodging police clubs, the FTA strikers went into action. About 40 strikers marched down to City Hall (above) to change their registrations from Republican to Democratic. Other protests against Philadelphia police brutality and the court injunction against GE mass picketing were voiced by Local 15, on strike in Charleston, S.C., and by the Tri-State Council (FTA locals in the Carolinas and Virginia). The General Electric strikers are members of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America.

Rather Walk A Mile For A Camel Than Reach An Inch For A Lucky.
Tobacco Workers Strike Now In Its Fourth Month.

CIO PRESS BACKS BOYCOTT: Solidarity behind the American Tobacco strikers is being shown by CIO newspapers throughout the country. In addition to the clippings shown above, the following papers are publicizing the Lucky Strike boycott: The Union (Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers); Rubber Worker; Fur and Leather Worker; Marine Cooks and Stewards Voice; Retail, Wholesale and Dept. Store Employee; Farm Equipment News; Oil Worker; Int. Fisherman; Rail Labor CIO News; Labor Herald (California CIO); Buffalo Union Leader; Wisconsin CIO News; Indiana CIO News; Minnesota Labor; and many other CIO city-wide and local papers.

CIO Pushes Organizing In South

Washington, D. C.—Key concentration point in the CIO's newly planned organizing drive will be among the millions of unorganized Southern workers. Plans for one of the greatest organizing drives in labor history were mapped out recently at a meeting of CIO leaders where organizing plans and prospects were discussed.

CIO Pres. Philip Murray announced the formation of a national CIO organizing committee to collect funds from CIO unions, employ organizers and work out details of a coordinated campaign. Vice-Pres. Allan S. Haywood, CIO director of organization, was named chairman of the new committee.

Special emphasis will be placed on the textile and other low-wage industries in the Southern campaign. At the same time, national CIO support will be thrown behind a special drive to organize hundreds of thousands of chemical workers throughout the country.

CIO Supports U. S. Loan To Britain

Washington, D. C.—Full support of the CIO for the proposed $3 billion loan to Great Britain was expressed recently by CIO Pres. Philip Murray.

Calling the loan an essential "first step to an expanding world trade," Murray said that the loan "expresses in practical terms the interdependence of labor in closely allied countries and provides a mutually profitable solution of present world trade difficulties for both American and British industry."

He said that the U. S. is obliged to make the loan to Britain because of Britain's heavy wartime expenditures in common battle.

$500 Million Increases Won By CIO In 2 Months

Over $500 million in wage increases has been won by the CIO in the last two months, the greatest increase ever recorded by organized labor. The series of nation-wide strikes which brought public attention to the workers' needs for higher wages, netted gains ranging up to 18½c an hour for workers in many industries.

Reports from 12 CIO unions alone show that to date some 1,500,000 workers have been affected by the wage gains already won, with more to be negotiated in auto, shipyard, packing, farm equipment, maritime, tobacco and other unions.

Steel

Following settlement of the four-week basic steel strike, 500,000 steelworkers returned to work with an 18½c an hour raise. An additional 250,000 steel workers are still striking at steel fabricating plants for the 18½c. Nearly 80 of the plants have already agreed to the raise. USA-CIO officials predict that most of the plants will sign up shortly.

Electrical

On the electrical industry front 48,000 workers won wage increases at the General Motors Electrical Division plants, radio firms and RCA. Westinghouse and General Electric are still defying the workers' demands, as the nation-wide strike enters its eighth week.

Both companies have gotten anti-picketing injunctions issued against the United Electrical Workers in Bloomfield, N. J.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Schenectady, N. Y.; Ft. Wayne, Ind.; and Bridgeport, Conn.

Philadelphia was the scene of pitched battles and police violence on Feb. 2°, when over 1,000 club-swinging mounted cops and foot patrolmen charged into a parade of 3,500 UE members and sympathizers who were protesting the illegal injunction several blocks from the GE plant. The battle highlighted a week of police assaults against the strikers. More than 50 were injured as mounted police trampled the workers and beat them with clubs.

The first assault took place the morning of Feb. 27 when 1,050 cops charged a picket line of 800 in front of the GE plant, formed in defiance of the injunction. The picket line was strengthened the second day by fellow-strikers from the American Tobacco plant, and other CIO shipyard, steel and electrical workers.

In protest against the use of force by the Republican city administration, some 15,000 UE and other CIO workers marched on City Hall in a 2-hour stop-work demonstration. There, hundreds of the workers took steps to change their Republican Party registrations. UE officials meeting with the U. S. Dept. of Justice, charged GE and Westinghouse with conspiring to deprive strikers of their constitutional rights to picket peacefully.

Auto

While the United Auto Workers reported wage increases for 211,800 workers at 7 plants, the General Motors strike, longest major stoppage in the history of the UAW, entered its fourth month. Union officials accused GM of obstructing the settlement of the strike after two weeks of government conciliation had ironed out the most outstanding issues. GM flatly turned down the Union's offer to end the strike and arbitrate issues still unsettled.

The UAW is asking a 19½c an hour raise and reinstatement of the contract which the Company canceled after the strike was called.

Negotiations terminated at Ford early this month with a new contract which boosts wages 18c an hour retroactive to Jan. 5.

Rubber

In a settlement negotiated without a strike, the CIO United Rubber Workers won an 18½c an hour wage increase for some 300,000 rubber workers at the Big Four plants—Firestone, Goodyear, U. S. Rubber and Goodrich.

Pennsylvania Farmers Urge Farm-Labor Unity

Philadelphia, Pa.—Farmers of Pennsylvania endorsed labor's strikes for higher wages as being in the public interest, at the First Pennsylvania Conference on Farmer-Labor Cooperation held in Harrisburg recently.

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Committee of the National Farmers Union, the conference was attended by a large number of farmers and nine CIO and AFL unions, including FTA.

Among the resolutions adopted by the conference was the proposal that a state farmer-labor committee be set up to achieve greater understanding and co-operation between farmers and organized labor in Pennsylvania.

The conference also went on record in support of the 65-75c minimum wage bill; coverage of farm labor under the minimum wage law; coverage for farmers and farm labor under the social security act; enforcement of price control and subsidies to farmers; and passage of the federal FEPC bill.

—Solidarity—

This classic song of the labor movement has been tops in popularity with workers for many years, at union meetings and on picket lines. It is sung to the tune of "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

When the Union's inspiration through the workers' blood shall run,
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun.
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one?
But the Union makes us strong.

Chorus:
Solidarity forever!
Solidarity forever!
Solidarity forever!
For the Union makes us strong!

It is we who plowed the prairies, built the cities where they trade,
Dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid—
Now we stand outcast and starving 'mid the wonders we have made;
But the Union makes us strong.

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn,
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel would turn;
We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn
That the Union makes us strong.

In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold,
Greater that the might of armies magnified a thousand-fold,
We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old,
For the Union makes us strong.

65-75c Bill To Come Up In Senate

Washington, D. C.—S 1349, the bill which amends the Wage-Hour Act of 1938 to raise a minimum wage standard from 40c to 65c an hour, was reported out of the Senate Labor Committee March 5. Although it was expected to hit the floor of the Senate immediately, debate on the bill will not start till March 14.

The measure provides for the minimum wage to go to 70c in two years and 75c after another two-year period. Increasing the scope of minimum wage protection, the bill extends coverage of workers in fish processing and handling industries, packing, canning and storing of agricultural goods, dairy and milk production, cotton ginning and compress and other industries.

Pressure Needed

Opponents of the bill succeeded in weakening it by taking out a clause which would give double damages to workers suing employers under the act. If employers can prove that they did not violate the law wilfully, they do not have to pay damages.

Chief attacks on the bill on the Senate floor will be aimed at breaking down the coverage provisions, FTA Washington Rep. Elizabeth Sasuly warned. "Only great pressure on every Senator will assure passage of the 65c-75c minimum and coverage for all food processing workers," Mrs. Sasuly said. "Tons of mail must be sent to Congress from every section of the country."

Weak Housing Bill Now Goes To Senate

Washington, D.C.—The Patman Housing Bill passed the House March 7 after Republican and poll-tax Democratic Congressmen had crippled it with amendments.

Subsidies to manufacturers of building materials, the recognized bottleneck in housing, were knocked out of the bill.

Provisions

The bill, as it now stands, orders price ceilings on new homes, channels scarce materials and establishes priorities for them, and gives veterans preference. It also authorizes federal mortgage insurance of up to $1 billion and orders a "reasonable profit" on building materials.

The bill now goes to the Senate. Organized labor is expected to press for ceiling prices on existing housing and to reinsert provisions for building materials subsidies.

CIO Urges Greater Social Security

Washington, D. C.—Strong support for the Murray-Wagner-Dingell social security bill was given by the CIO March 6, when Van A. Bittner, Chairman of the CIO Social Security Committee testified before the House Ways and Means Committee.

Bittner explained the CIO position as favoring extension of old age and survivors insurance to all workers; payment for permanent disability; coverage of self-employed workers including farmers; and distribution of the cost of the program among employers, workers and the government.

Bill Needed

He urged increasing the amount of payments to beneficiaries, as proposed earlier in the hearings by Dr. Arthur J. Altmeyer, Social Security Board Chairman.

"The country badly needs a combined full employment and social security plan which will lead to the largest possible number of jobs and to the greatest health and welfare for the American people in the postwar period," Bittner said.

"Win The Peace" Parley To Be Held In Capitol

Washington, D.C.—"To answer the enemies of Big Three Unity and to guarantee the realization of Franklin D. Roosevelt's policies in the meetings of the United Nations Organization and in the coming Peace Conferences," some of the nation's outstanding leaders have issued a call to a Win The Peace Conference in Washington on April 5, 6, and 7.

The call to the Conference urges all organizations to elect delegates to the Conference which will be held in the F Street Auditorium of the National Press Building. National organizations are invited to send 4 delegates; state organizations, 2; and citywide, 1.

"Let the representatives of the organizations of the American people — organizations of every type and from every section of our Nation—meet and speak out," the call declares. "Let them express your determination that we shall win the peace."

Some of the sponsors and organizers of the Conference include: Senators—Harley M. Kilgore of West Virginia and Glen H. Taylor of Idaho; Representatives—Hugh DeLacy of Washington and Helen G. Douglas of California; Bishops —Lewis C. Hartman, R.R. Wright, Jr., and Edward L. Parsons.

Problems to be considered at the Conference center around the questions of Big Three Unity and the peace; breaking relations with Franco Spain; establishment of democracy in Europe and Asia; brining our GI's home. American policy toward colonial peoples will come in for considerable discussion with emphasis on independence for the Philippines and Puerto Rico; self-determination for the peoples of Indonesia, Indo-China, Burma and Malaya, etc.

America's role in Latin-America; control of the atomic bomb; universal military training; full employment and price control; democratic rights for labor and minorities; etc., are among the other topics to be considered.

Senate Vote On FEPC

IN spite of the Senate sell-out on the FEPC bill by dropping the bill when cloture was defeated, supporters of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission are determined to renew their efforts for passage of this bill.

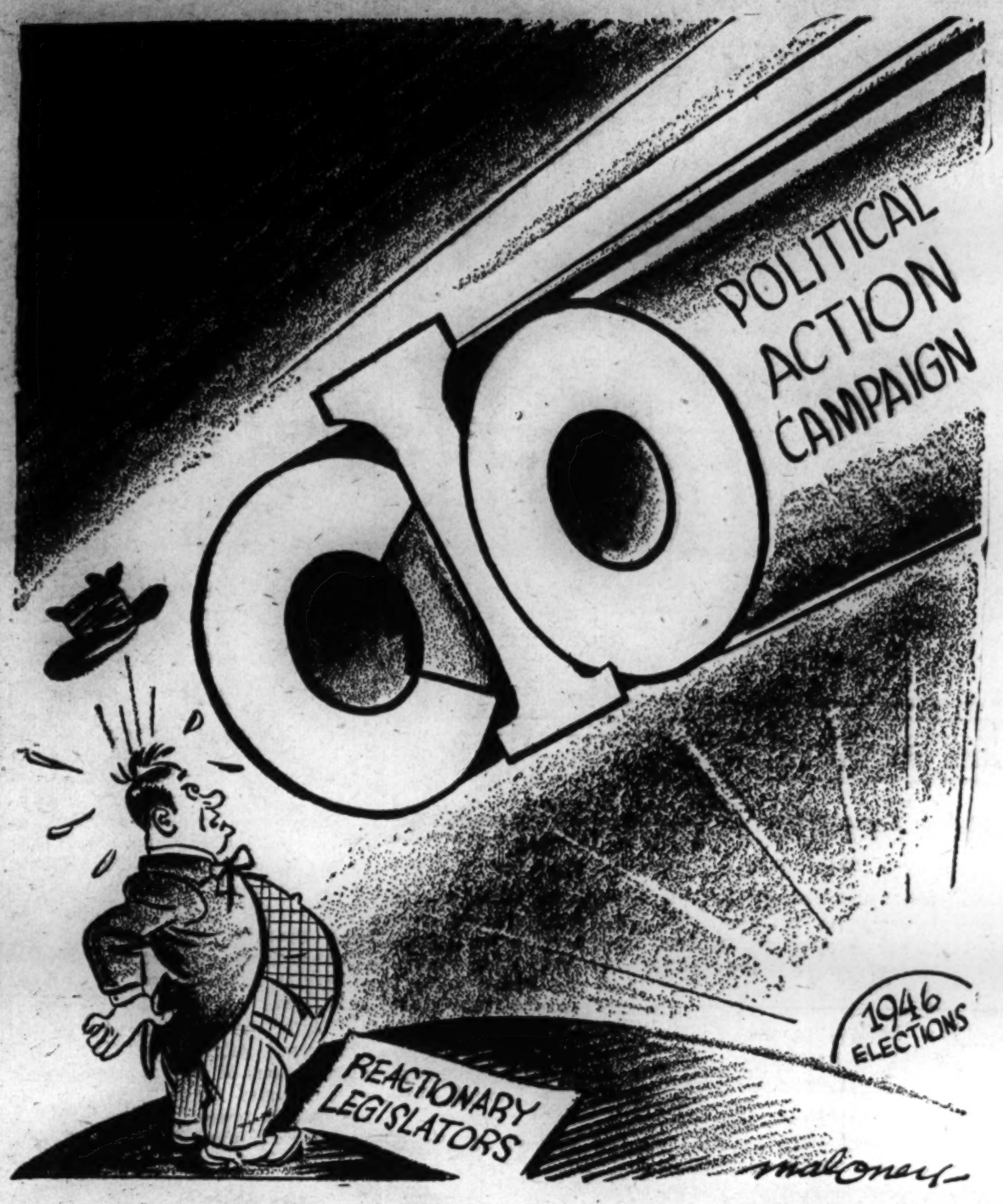
At a recent meeting in Washington, called to devise a program of action, CIO representatives proposed that an effort must be made to get the necessary signatures for a discharge petition in the House which will bring the bill to the floor. The petition, which requires the signatures of 218 representatives, is now short of that number by 50.

Once the bill comes up for vote in the House, there appears to be no doubt that it will be passed. However, it demands the most energetic action. Every local should win commitments from their Congressmen to sign the House discharge petition. Remind them that Congressional elections are only seven months off.

Following passage of the bill in the House, the next round in the battle for FEPC would take place again on the Senate floor. Here again, we can expect the same bitter opposition by Bilbo and the Southern poll-taxers as before. This time the vote for cloture must be taken again and again until cloture is passed and a vote taken on the bill. Failure of the motion for cloture does not mean defeat of the bill. Don't let your Senator get away with a sell-out this time.

Below is a list of the voting record of Senators on the cloture motion and on dropping the FEPC bill. The men who voted against cloture are the Senators who must be defeated at the polls.

State	Senators	Vote on Cloture	On Dropping Bill
Arizona	Carl Hayden (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
	Ernest McFarland (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
Arkansas	John McClellan (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
	J. Wm. Fulbright (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
California	Sheridan Downey (Dem.)	right	wrong
	Thomas J. Knowland (Rep.)	right	right
Colorado	Edwin C. Johnson (Dem.)	right	wrong
	Eugene Milliken (Rep.)	wrong	wrong
Connecticut	Thomas Hart (Rep.)	right	wrong
	Brian McMahon (Dem.)	right	wrong
Florida	Charles Andrews (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
	Claude Pepper (Dem.)	no vote	no vote
Illinois	C. Wayland Brooks (Rep.)	no vote	no vote
	Scott Lucas (Dem.)	right	wrong
Indiana	Raymond Willis (Rep.)	right	wrong
	Homer Capehart (Rep.)	right	wrong
Iowa	Bourke Hickenlooper (Rep.)	right	wrong
	George A. Wilson (Rep.)	right	wrong
Kentucky	Alben W. Barkley (Dem.)	right	wrong
	Wm. A. Stanfill (Rep.)	no vote	no vote
Louisiana	Allen Ellender (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
	John H. Overton (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
Michigan	Homer Ferguson (Rep.)	right	right
	Arthur H. Vandenberg (Rep.)	no vote	no vote
Minnesota	Joseph Ball (Rep.)	right	wrong
	Henrik Shipstead (Rep.)	right	wrong
Mississippi	Theodore Bilbo (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
	James O. Eastland (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
Missouri	Frank Briggs (Dem.)	right	wrong
	Forrest Donnell (Rep.)	no vote	no vote
New Jersey	Albert Hawkes (Rep.)	wrong	wrong
	Alexander Smith (Rep.)	right	wrong
New York	James Mead (Dem.)	right	right
	Robert Wagner (Dem.)	no vote	no vote
North Carolina	Josiah Bailey (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
	Clyde R. Hoey (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
Ohio	James Huffman (Dem.)	right	wrong
	Robert Taft (Rep.)	right	wrong
Oregon	Guy Cordon (Rep.)	right	wrong
	Wayne Morse (Rep.)	right	right
Pennsylvania	Joseph Guffey (Dem.)	right	wrong
	Francis J. Myers (Dem.)	right	wrong
South Carolina	Olin Johnston (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
	Burnet Maybank (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
Tennessee	Kenneth McKellar (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
	Tom Stewart (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
Texas	Tom Connally (Dem.)	no vote	no vote
	W. Lee O'Daniel (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
Virginia	Harry F. Byrd (Dem.)	wrong	wrong
	Carter Glass (Dem.)	no vote	no vote
Washington	Warren Magnuson (Dem.)	right	right
	Hugh Mitchell (Dem.)	right	right
Wisconsin	Robert LaFollette (Prog.)	right	right
	Chapman Revercomb (Rep.)	right	wrong



PAC Getting Into Shape To Win Elections in '46

By Federated Press

New York, N.Y.—With 435 Representatives and 34 Senators coming up for election in November and primaries only a few months away, the CIO Political Action Committee is oiling the machinery to rally the people to change the anti-labor face of Congress in 1946.

Need for political action was driven home to two million workers forced onto picketlines in their fight for a living wage this winter, when they saw Congress rushing to the aid of the corporations with billions of dollars in tax rebates and a crop of vicious anti-labor bills, while labor's program was buried or watered down to a mere echo of Pres. Truman's speeches.

All the techniques that proved so successful in 1944 will be used to "get enough voters at the polls armed with the facts on the issues and their Congressman's record to beat the Industrial-Congressional conspiracy," PAC officials say. As before, emphasis will be on registration of workers and their families and getting out a big vote.

Seek Progressives

PAC will work through the existing parties, using labor's political strength to get the Democrats or the Republicans, as the case may be, to run the most progressive candidates possible on the basis of the record.

National PAC with headquarters in New York will be general headquarters for the 1946 drive but the actual PAC work—selection of candidates, organization of doorbell ringers, setting up of ward machinery and direction of campaigns — will be carried on through city and state CIO bodies. At the national CIO executive board meeting in April 1945, PAC was reorganized to make city, county and state councils the core of the new PAC structure.

From PAC in New York will come the voting records by which local doorbell ringers will let the people know how their Representatives in Congress stood on such all-important issues as the full employment program, anti-labor legislation, price control, the FEPC and foreign policy. PAC's pamphlet-a-month also aims at educating the people on the issues.

A 1946 edition of What Every Canvasser Should Know is in the works, and directives have already gone out on the kind of political action that led directly from strike action in the communities, such as wiring Congressmen to vote for repeal of the tax rebate to industry.

Strikers Register

Registration of workers from the picketline is a new idea that originated in a suburb of Cincinnati. Disgusted at the help General Motors was getting from Congress, United Auto Workers official Ed Helkamp took a poll of 1,600 strikers on the Chevrolet-Fisher Body picketline and found 40% were not registered.

PAC machinery began rolling and as each shift of pickets left the line, those who were not registered were asked to go at once to the board of elections. As many as 600 new voters were signed up in one shift. The idea spread throughout Ohio and through PAC directives to other states.

Potential Strength

The recent Congressional by-elections gave a clue to labor's potential strength in the 1946 campaign. In Georgia labor and liberal forces helped elect Rep. Helen Douglas Mankin, first woman ever sent to the House from that state and an outstanding liberal. A nationally-watched race in New York saw the American Labor party and PAC run a candidate independently of the major parties for the first time and win 38% of the vote.

Are You Registered?

THE opening guns of the 1946 election campaign will be fired shortly, CIO-PAC officials announced in emphasizing the approaching registration deadlines for the primary elections.

The Congressional races will get off to an early start in Illinois with the primary election scheduled for April 9. Closing date for registration for the primary there is March 12.

Following close on its heels will be primaries in Pennsylvania and Florida whose registrations deadlines have been set at March 31 and April 20, respectively.

Illinois State CIO-PAC leaders have expressed the hope that chances for the re-election of 14 reactionary Congressmen out of the State's representation of 26 would be killed this year.

Among those who will be vigorously opposed by progressives are Leslie Arends, co-author of the May-Arends anti-labor bill; Leo E. Allen, Robert Chiperfield, Ralph Church, Anton Johnson, Noah Mason, Rolla McMillen and Charles W. Vursell, all of whom whave had a consistently bad voting record.

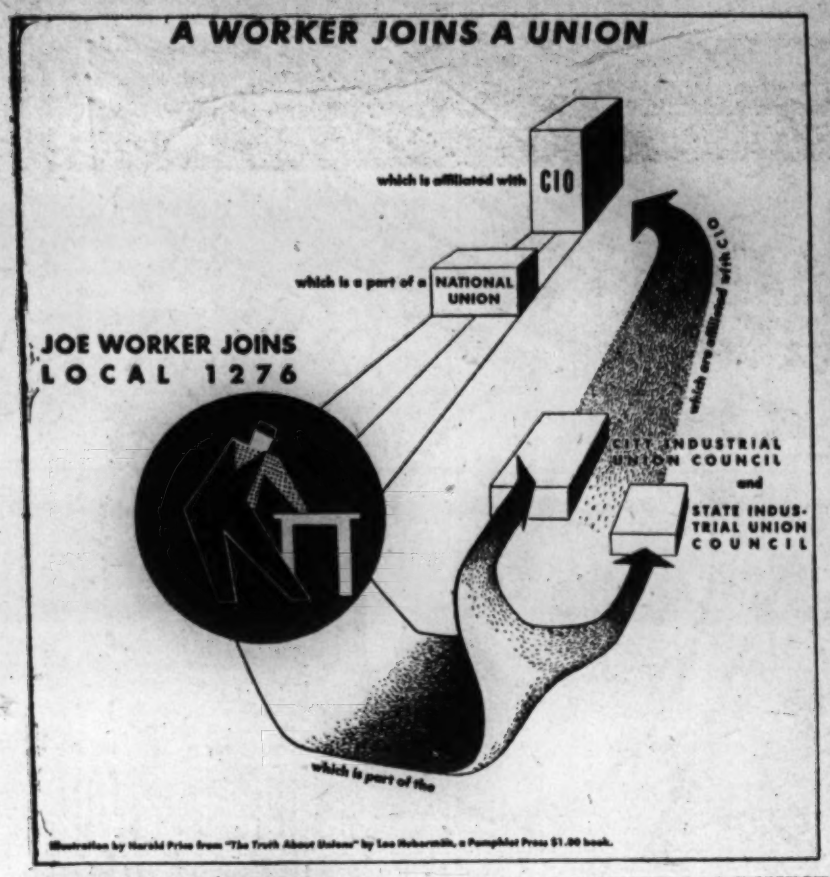


Illustration by Harold Price from "The Truth About Unions" by Leo Huberman, a Pamphlet Press $1.00 book.

BOOK REVIEW

"The Truth About Unions"

By Connie Anderson, Education Director

"THE Truth About Unions," by Leo Huberman is just that. And the truth is handed out in plain language and big, clear type. Even the best informed FTA member will pick up facts from "The Truth About Unions" to use in convincing others to join FTA.

Sketching the workers' long struggle for Unions, Huberman sets forth means which have been used by employers for 100 years and more to bust unions. Here, for example, is the explanation of injunctions:

"One of the most deadly weapons used against labor organizations by employers was the injunction. An injunction was a court order forbidding men on strike from doing certain things which the employer claimed might injure his property.

"The judge would not simply say to a group of strikers, 'You are forbidden to smash the employer's machinery, or throw a brick through his window.' The judge would say to a group of strikers, at the request of an employer, 'You are not allowed to have a picket line, assemble near the factory, or distribute leaflets.'

"Judges issued injunctions which said just that—and worse. In one case, some striking miners met in a church which was 1,500 feet away from the mine, on property not belonging to the mine owners. To keep their morale up they took out hymn books and sang: hymn number 166, 'The Victory Day May Depend on You'; hymn number 266, 'Nearer My God to Thee': and hymn number 44, 'Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus.'

"At the request of the mine owner, a judge issued an injunction forbidding the miners to sing in the church."

"It was obvious that the real purpose of injunctions was not to protect the employers' property, but rather to enable them to smash strikes."

In view of the current outbreak of injunctions Huberman might well have written that "the real purpose of injunctions IS to try to help employers to break strikes."

FTA locals are urged to sell "The Truth About Unions" to the stewards and members. In lots of 100 copies or more it can be ordered direct from Pamphlet Press, 8 West 40 St., New York 18, N. Y., at $60 per 100 copies. Orders less than 100 should be sent to FTA, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia 2, Pa., and charged on the local's supply bill. Prices: single copies $1; in lots of 10 or more, 80c a copy.

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

Local 22 Vets Conference Acts On China, Housing and Vets Benefits

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Some 300 veterans of World War II employed in plants under contract to Local 22 met recently at a week-end conference to consider the problems of returned servicemen. The conference was addressed by Meyer Bernstein of the National CIO Veterans Committee, an authority on veterans legislation, and FTA International Representative Ed McCrea, an ex-Navy man.

According to the Selective Service Act, Bernstein revealed, a veteran is entitled to get back his old job or a similar one. The number of years he served in the armed forces should be added to his seniority record, and he is entitled to any and all wage increases given during his absence on the basis of length of service.

Vets' Rights

Full benefits for veterans also includes the paid vacation for the year previous to his return to the job. The government also provides unemployment insurance of $20 a week for as long as 52 weeks to enable the vet to readjust to civilian life.

Bernstein urged all unions to see that their veterans get all they are entitled to under the Selective Service Act and the GI Bill of Rights.

After the last war, he said, the veterans returned to find themselves out of work and forced to sell apples for a living. Determined to prevent such a situation this time, the CIO and other organizations worked to get many of the present veterans benefits enacted into law. He also discussed loans for veterans for farms, homes and business, as well as the educational benefits under the GI Bill.

Community Speakers

Among the other speakers who addressed the Conference were Lenora Riggans, of the Red Cross; Hiram Cody, Counselor for the Veterans Service Council; Reginald Turner in charge of the Veterans Administration office; and Major Edmund Robinson in charge of the State Veterans Commission office in Winston-Salem. They told of the services offered by their organizations and invited the vets to feel free to use them.

A resolution was sent by the Conference to President Truman calling upon him to withdraw American troops and supplies from China in the interests of world peace. "We urge you to cease sending American arms and supplies for use against native peoples struggling for their freedom," the resolution said.

Housing Program

The conference strongly supported the Veterans Emergency Housing Program and urged the passage of the Patman (HR 4751) and Wagner - Ellender - Taft (S 1592) housing bills.

Other resolutions sent to Congress roundly condemned the Case bill and other anti-labor legislation, and pressed for passage of the 65c-75c Minimum Wage bill without crippling or weakening amendments. The Conference asked Congress to amend the section of the GI Bill or Rights which prevents payment of unemployment compensation to veterans on strike.

Members of the planning committee for the Conference were J. P. Powell, Chairman; Quency Spurgeon, Vice-Chairman; Howard Long, Secy.; Roy Fair, Chaplain; John H. Minor and Foster Crouse.

CIO Urges Army, Navy Pay Hike

Washington, D. C.—In the interest of greater democracy in the armed forces, the CIO Veterans Committee last week requested a flat increase in pay "for each man irrespective of rank." Clinton S. Golden, Chairman of the Committee, in a letter to the War Dept., also urged similar treatment of enlisted personnel and commissioned officers in respect to terminal leave, retirement disability, subsistence allowances, travel pay, uniforms, and food, rationing and post exchange privileges.

"The cost of living for the has increased every bit as much as it has increased for the officer," "Golden's letter said. "And he has been affected by price increases by exactly the same extent as the officer. It would be most undemocratic to give the officer an adjustment many times greater than that of the enlisted man."

The Army and Navy are requesting a 20% increase for servicemen, rather than the flat increase which the CIO deems necessary.

THE Story of Labor
THE WORKERS IN THE PENNSYLVANIA STEEL MILLS WERE OF MANY RACES. THEY WERE SLAVS, POLES, IRISH; SCOTCH, HUNGARIANS. THEY WERE PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC, JEWISH. YET THEY FORMED A GREAT UNION... THE AMALGAMATED ASSOCIATION OF IRON AND STEEL WORKERS. AT FIRST THE CARNEGIE STEEL CO. RECOGNIZED THE UNION. CARNEGIE EVEN WROTE: "THE RIGHT OF THE WORKINGMEN TO COMBINE AND TO FORM TRADE-UNIONS IS NO LESS SACRED THAN THE RIGHT OF THE MANUFACTURER TO ENTER INTO ASSOCIATIONS." BUT IN 1892 HENRY CLAY FRICK, NEW CARNEGIE MANAGER, DETERMINED TO CRUSH THE UNION. HE REFUSED ANOTHER CONTRACT, CUT WAGES AND LOCKED OUT THE WORKERS. HE IMPORTED PINKERTON DETECTIVES, STRIKEBREAKERS AND MILITIA. AFTER A BLOODY FIGHT THE HOMESTEAD STRIKE WAS LOST, AND ALMOST 50 YEARS ELAPSED BEFORE STEEL WAS UNIONIZED AGAIN. A 12-HOUR DAY AND LOW WAGES BECAME STANDARD IN STEEL.....
JOE WORKER
HOMESTEAD IN 1892 WAS A UNION TOWN WITH A UNION CONTRACT. BUT THE CONTRACT EXPIRED...
THIS NEW BOSS, FRICK, IS TOUGH! HE SAYS HE'LL SMASH OUR UNION!
IF WE STAND UNITED, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO!
THE BATTLE LASTED ALL DAY. TEN WERE KILLED AND HUNDREDS WOUNDED. FINALLY THE PINKERTONS SURRENDERED....
FIRST YOU CALLED ANTON A BOHUNK; THEN YOU KILLED HIM! I OUGHT TO....
HEY, WHAT'S THIS FENCE FOR? IT WASN'T HERE THIS MORNING!
MR. FRICK'S ORDERS, BOHUNK!
I SMELL TROUBLE. NO ONE EVER CALLED ANTON A BOHUNK BEFORE!
TROUBLE CAME FAST. FRICK LOCKED OUT THE WORKERS, AND BROUGHT IN PINKERTONS...
DON'T LET 'EM LAND. THEY'VE GOT STRIKEBREAKERS HIDDEN ON BOARD!
NEXT FRICK CALLED IN THE MILITIA. WITH BAYONETS IN CONTROL, THE LEADERS ARRESTED. THE STRIKE WAS BROKEN.
O'DONNELL, ROSS, McLUCKIE! YOU'RE CHARGED WITH MURDER!
MURDER? HOW ABOUT FRICK AND PINKERTON? THEY KILLED WORKERS!
REMEMBER, I'VE GOT PLENTY O' BOHUNKS AN' POLAKS FOR YOUR JOBS. I'LL PAY ONLY 14¢ AN HOUR, FOR A 12-HOUR DAY!
IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY. SMASH THE UNION AND KEEP THE WORKERS DIVIDED!